

Progress Committee, president of the Cicero Rotary Club, chairman of the Cicero Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and finance chairman of the Cicero Boy Scout Council, to name just a few.

In addition, Charlie served as an elected trustee of Morton Junior College from 1976 until he was appointed Berwyn Republican Committeeman in 1981, a post he was re-elected to four times. He also worked as an aide to State Representative Judy Baar Topinka, and for the last 12 years, served the Illinois Secretary of State's office, most recently as the director of a driver's license examination facility. Charlie was noted for his ability to make what is often a less than pleasant experience almost enjoyable for many an Illinois motorist.

Charlie won numerous awards for his civic and business achievements. The Albert Gallatin Business Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Friends of Berwyn and Cicero Citizen of the Year, and the John F. Kubik Humanitarian of the Year Award are just a few of his many honors. And, for good measure, Charlie qualified for and completed a Boston Marathon in 1978, finishing in less than 4 hours.

But perhaps the achievement of which Charlie was the proudest was his work in establishing a permanent home for the Berwyn-Cicero Council on Aging when he served as president of the council in the 1970's. He put together a consortium of banks and saving and loans that provided a mortgage to purchase a building for the council. It is this building that will serve as a permanent memorial to Charlie Slezak when it is renamed in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Mrs. Slezak, Charlie's two daughters, Diane and Charlene, his granddaughter and "little shining star" Carly Ann, and all of his relatives and countless friends. Charlie is gone, but his legacy of community involvement and caring will live on for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained on official business yesterday during rollcall vote No. 752, the vote for final passage of the conference report on H.R. 1868. Had I been present on the floor of the House, I would have voted "yea."

HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to correct an unfortunate problem for motorized river craft operators in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area [HCNRA]. To fully explain the reason for my legislation, I would like to provide a little background on the situation in the HCNRA.

Nearly 20 years ago, on December 31, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-199, which designated the HCNRA. The stated purpose of this law was to "assure that the natural beauty, historical, and archeological values of the Hells Canyon area and the 71-mile segment of the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the Oregon-Washington border, together with certain portions of its tributaries and adjacent lands, are preserved for this and future generations, and that the recreational and ecologic values and public enjoyment of the area are thereby enhanced."

Section seven of this act instructs the Secretary to "administer the recreation area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the national forests for public outdoor recreation" in a manner compatible with seven listed objectives. In addition, section 10 of this act instructs the Secretary to promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems necessary to accomplish purposes of the act, including "provision for the control of the use and number of motorized and non-motorized river craft: *Provided*, That the use of such craft is hereby recognized as a valid use of the Snake River within the recreation area."

Considering this, the language is very clear and straight forward. Unfortunately, however, the original intent of the act—including the compromises and promises that fostered its passage—seem to have been forgotten and/or confused.

Throughout both the process leading to designation of the HCNRA and the ensuing management planning efforts, the USDA's Forest Service—managing agency—has exhibited a disturbing prejudice against motorized river craft in the HCNRA. This bias first surfaced in hearings leading to the designation of the HCNRA, then later in a Comprehensive Management Plan that had to be overruled on appeal by then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Crowell, and most recently by Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor Robert Richmond in an effort to revise the river management plan.

During HCNRA hearings in 1975, then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Long testified regarding a proposed amendment that would authorize the Department of Agriculture to prohibit jet boats. He noted that there were "times when boating perhaps should be prohibited entirely." Senator Church responded to this unfavorably, explaining:

I think you may have given the present use of the river and the fact that access to it for many people who go into the canyon, if not the majority, is by the river, and jet boats have been found to be the preferred method of travel by a great many people who have gone into the canyon. This is a matter of such importance that Congress itself should decide what the guidelines would be with respect to regulation of traffic on the river and that the discretion ought not to be left entirely to the administrative agencies.

Consequently, the amendment failed, thus indicating that Congress expressly disapproved of the actions proposed in the amendment.

In spite of the lack of any demonstrable resource problems, and in the face of overwhelming public support for motorized river craft, the Forest Service continues in its attempt to provide solely a nonmotorized experience by proposing to close the heart of the canyon to motorized river craft for 3 days a

week in July and August. This is the peak of the recreation season, and this action severely limits motorized access to the rest of the river. In response to the numerous appeals received by the regional forester in adamant opposition to this effort, a stay on this ominous proposal was granted for the 1995 season. The 1996 season is just around the corner, and this predicament requires justified legislative relief.

The Snake River is different than most of those in the Wild and Scenic River system, for the diversity that it provides makes it particularly precious to the American people. The Snake is a high-volume river with a long and colorful history of use by motorized river craft. The first paying passengers to go up through its rapids on a motor boat made their journey on the 110-foot *Colonel Wright* in 1865. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began blasting rocks and improving channels in 1903, and they worked continuously until 1975 to make the river safer for navigation.

Today the vast majority of people—over 80 percent—who recreate in the Hells Canyon segment of the Snake River access it by motorized river craft. Some of these are private boaters, and others travel with commercial operators on scenic tours. This access is accomplished with a minimum of impact to the river, the land, or the resources. The Hells Canyon portion of the Snake River is our Nation's premier whitewater powerboating river.

The use of motorized river craft is deeply interwoven with the history, traditions, and culture of Hells Canyon. It was for this reason that Congress left a nonwilderness corridor for the entire length of the river. Likewise, Congress clearly intended that both motorized and nonmotorized river craft were valid uses of the entire river within the recreation area for the full year. It was clearly not the intent of Congress to allow the managing agency to decide that one valid use would prevail over the other, as the Forest Service has proposed.

In light of the pending proposal to severely curtail powerboat operation in the HCNRA, I believe the practical and permanent resolution to this predicament is to clarify congressional intent in Public Law 94-199 in a manner that will preclude any future misunderstanding. This is what I propose to do with the legislation I am introducing today.

Thank you, and I urge my colleagues' support of this solid endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO GWYN GANDY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to extol the many milestones of Gwyn Gandy. Gwyn is the chief executive officer and president of C&G Insurance Brokerage Co., Inc., a full-service firm specializing in all forms of insurance. Gwyn is a 12-year veteran of the insurance industry and has the distinction of being the only African-American female from New York to participate in the Democratic National Convention [DMC] which awarded a contract that provided for special events coverage as part of the DNC.

Gwyn's parents left the rural south and traveled to Brooklyn where she was raised as the oldest of six children. Financial necessity